

Plan of Work

Title: Waaswaaganing Indian Bowl Living Arts and Culture Center Presents: An Educational Exhibit on Ojibwe Cultural Value and Environmental Justice.

Location: The applicant and the proposed project are located on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation in the Northwoods of Wisconsin in zip code 54538. The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, a designated federal Tribe, is a member of Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community; a 2011 designated Sustainable *Community* under HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative and a 2010 *Enterprise Community* under USDA's Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Initiative. These designations infer severe poverty and afford certain preference and entitlement points to collaborating communities. For instance EPA has partnered with HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative, and the proposed project is an outcome of its planning and cooperative agreement.

How the Proposed Project Will Address Local Environmental and Public Health Issues on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation (affected area):

The primary purpose of the project is public education about the cultural values of the Ojibwe Native peoples inhabiting the Lac du Flambeau Reservation (their responsibility to respect and sustain resources for the seventh generation), and how these values lead to resource conflicts around resource use (acid rain, invasive species, oil fracking, land development, farming, motorized boating), and the impacts on the water, food and health of current (hunter gatherer) and future residents. This will be done through the construction of a central downtown Art and Educational Exhibit placed at the entrance of the Waaswaaganing Indian Bowl Living Arts and Culture Center, a location exposed to high visitor traffic. Reference Attached architectural schematics for the Center.

Qualified Environmental Statues:

Water is the largest factor in Climate Resiliency for this Reservation whose land is represented by almost as much water as land (see attached map) and whose population relies heavily on the production of resources from its lakes to provide fish and wild rice as a large part of their sustenance, especially among the 18% of the population below the poverty line¹.

- Clean Water Act, Section 104 (b)
- Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 14421

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EPA Goal 3: Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development

EPA Cross-Agency Goal: Working to Make a Visible Difference in Communities

Overall Goal: Through intensive public input, and public dialogue, improve the understanding of community and non-community members and stakeholders regarding environmental social justice issues and devise a plan to address these historically charged and conflicted issues towards a sustainable Native American community. The deliverable is an educational exhibit and Ojibwe work of Art erected in the center of Downtown Lac du Flambeau which will share information about this struggle and suggest strategies to move forward.

Logic Model:

Objective	Activity	Persons Responsible	Timeframe	Deliverables and Outputs	Outcomes
Educating and empowering the community about these issues	Conduct focus groups and talking circles with residents, youth and elders regarding issues and options, and design of the exhibit	NiiJii UW Extension Wasswaaganing Indian Bowl Board of Directors	10/1/2015 – 12/1/15	# residents proving input	# community members understanding the issues
Approaches to building consensus and setting community priorities	Presentation of design and training information in public forums to residents for feedback and finalization	NiiJii Tribal Natural Resources Dept.	1/1/16 – 3/1/16	# residents proving input Final exhibit design	# community members prioritizing the issues
Collaboration	Development of a list of	NiiJii	10/1/2015 – 3/1/16	# on list	# stakeholders

among stakeholders (community based organizations, environmental groups, businesses, industry, federal, tribal, state and local government, academic institutions) in an effort to realize goals	<p>collaborators and stakeholders networked via social media</p> <p>Presentation of design and training information in public forums to collaborators and stakeholders for feedback</p> <p>Leveraging this network solicit sustainable development strategies to bridge social justice issues identified.</p> <p>Incorporate Strategies into the</p>	UW Extension		<p># in network</p> <p># participants in information sharing forums</p> <p># strategies incorporated into the NiiJii Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Development</p>	developing strategies and plans to address the issues
Strategies for addressing local environmental and public health issues	<p>Commission Art Exhibit utilizing local Ojibwe Artists.</p> <p>Install Exhibit utilizing local workforce at the Indian Bowl for the purposes of education and information sharing with neighboring communities</p>	<p>Woodland Indian Art Center</p> <p>Lac du Flambeau Planning Department</p>	<p>3/1/16 – 5/1/16</p> <p>5/1/2016 – 9/30/2016</p>	<p>1 Central Downtown Art and Information Exhibit</p>	# community and public members visiting the exhibit and becoming educated about the issues (in year 1)

Organizational History Connected to Affected Community:

Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc. (NiiJii) has been working within the Lac du Flambeau Reservation since 1999 to affect some 37 community projects to help alleviate poverty. Since 2000, poverty has decreased by 25% through the projects' job creation, service provision and infrastructure development. The NiiJii Board of Directors is comprised of 5 members who represent the interests of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior's interests.

NiiJii's focus has always been grass-roots development and its expertise is in building community consensus through culturally appropriate mechanisms. Therefore, the residents are often engaged in talking circles, with careful attention given to honoring the ideas of youth, the perspective of elders, and the ratification of Tribal Council.

Our organization was instrumental in supporting the Sokaogon Chippewa Indian attainment of Treatment as State through the development of Water Quality Standards. This project put to rest a 15+ year battle between the tribe (and its neighbors including the Lac du Flambeau Reservation) regarding the use of the land for mining. Our organization also seeded the development and construction of the Lac du Flambeau Natural Resource Green complex on the Reservation as an environmental training center and demonstration cite for sustainable technologies. Never has there been an effort to bring together an articulation of Ojibwe Values and how they guide the resource decision-making on the Reservation, which often leads to conflict with neighboring non-native communities. It is our intention through the proposed project's education and information sharing to help alleviate this conflict and move towards a positive direction in sustainability planning.

The proposed project, a small part of a larger \$3 million project to construct of a new Waaswaaganing Indian Bowl Living Arts and Culture Center, is the outcome of a long term grass-roots strategic planning process supported by the HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative.

Partners and Qualifications:

University of Wisconsin Extension Service – US Extension has been working with the Lac du Flambeau Community on Sustainable Natural Resource Planning for the last 12 years. Its Tribal CRD Agent brings the expertise and cultural sensitivity to the issues that

are needed to hold successful talking circles and public input around sensitive issues. UW Extension will participate in all public input and vetting processes and review training curriculum developed. Brian Gauthier's resume is attached.

Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resources Department & Water Resource Engineer – The Tribe's Water Resource Engineer brings the scientific expertise and in-the-trenched knowledge of how environmental threats are effecting local populations, as well as effective strategies to ameliorate problems. The Water Resource Engineer will review all training curriculum developed and participate in public vetting processes. Gretchen Watkins resume is attached.

Lac du Flambeau Tribal Planning and Development Department – The Tribe's Planner brings 30+ years of experience building infrastructure on the Reservation and 5+ years with special focus on Green construction, such as that to be implemented for the Waaswaaganing Indian Bowl. The Tribal Planner will manage construction at the site including the proposed project according to the Tribes and federal procurement policies. Emerson Coy's resume is attached.

Waaswaaganing Indian Bowl Board of Directors – This Board of Directors of the Tribal Corporation charged with the operation of the Center also oversees any construction or exhibit development on the site. They will provide elder review during project design, youth engagement and Ojibwe language translation. The Board Roster is attached.

Woodland Indian Art Center – This is a program of Northwoods NiiJii that has been operating on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation since 2010 and provides an incubator for Traditional Native Artists. Its role in the project will be to organize a call for artists to compete for the project design.

Qualifications of the Project Manager:

The NiiJii Executive Director, Patricia O'Neil (resume attached) has 20+ years working with Tribal and Impoverished Communities on Community Development Projects and great success in moving communities forward. Over the past 13 years with the organization she has recruited 109 partner organizations and 2000 volunteers to engage in the successful completion of 67 community development projects which leveraged \$186 million in development finance to three rural Reservations in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, whose impact ultimately was a 25% reduction in poverty. Patricia has insured that the organization performs on time, on budget and in compliance with federal requirements. The organization has enjoyed clean A-133 audits with no findings under her management.

achievements. Visitor logs track attendance at educational sites. Surveys are used to guard effectiveness of training in terms of skill development.

Quality Assurance Project Plan:

The Project will utilize existing environmental data as tracked by the environmental, brownfields and water resources programs within the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resources Programs, which have been long time recipients of EPA funding.

Detailed Budget: A detailed budget and justification appears in the attachments.

Resumes: Appear in the attachments.

Project Performance Measures: Appear above in the Logic Model

Proof of Non-profit Status: Reference Articles of Incorporation and IRS Tax Status Letter attached.